TL 5063

SN 10/99 PESC II

Luxembourg, 26 April 1999

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

EAST TIMOR

The Council was briefed by the Irish Foreign Minister on his recent visit to East Timor and shared his concern at the violence in the territory.

Recalling the Presidency Declaration on the latest incidents in East Timor, issued on 20 April on behalf of the European Union, the Council reaffirms that it remains the obligation of the Indonesian Government to maintain security, stability and public order in the territory, to disarm militias and to hold accountable those responsible for the killings, in order to preserve the spirit of the peace process. In this context, the Council reiterated that a United Nations presence in East Timor is urgently needed to help prevent further violence.

The Council was also briefed by the Portugese Foreign Minister on the results of the 13th round of talks between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General, and welcomed progress made leading to the signing of a final agreement on 5 May in New York.

In order to support the process of transition in East Timor, the Council instructed its relevant bodies and invited the Commission to consider urgently possible appropriate measures with a view:

- to supporting the consultation process of the East Timorese people, to be conducted by the United Nations;

- to providing humanitarian assistance to the East Timorese people;

- to developing economic and social programmes to assist the East Timorese people and enhance its institution capacity-building.